



Phoenix Area Indian Health Service
Two Renaissance Square
40 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

November 30, 2000

Michael H. Trujillo, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Assistant Surgeon General
Director, Indian Health Service

Dear Dr. Trujillo:

Subject: Final Report of the Workgroup on Centrally Paid Expenses/Assessments

Enclosed is the Final Report of the Workgroup on Centrally Paid Expenses/Assessments. The report was developed in accordance with the workgroup charge presented in January of this year. The workgroup met on three occasions to establish guiding principles and goals; collect and analyze pertinent data; and develop findings and recommendations.

An important component to this process was the circulation of the draft report for tribal review. The draft report was made available at the National Indian Health Board Conference in August; a letter with an executive summary of the draft report was sent to tribal leaders; several Areas presented the information at tribal meetings; and the draft report was posted on the Indian Health Service internet homepage. While the submission of formal tribal comments was limited, those received were supportive of the draft report. The workgroup made minor revisions and clarifications in the final report but did not substantially change the content or direction from the draft report. Consequently, the workgroup did not consider it necessary to have an additional comment period before submitting the final report to your office.

The workgroup has, however, recommended that any new proposed centrally paid expense or assessment for which funding has not been appropriated or cannot be funded from the Management Initiative Fund, such as costs for the new automated personnel system or improvements in information technology, be submitted for tribal consultation.

On behalf of the workgroup, thank you for the opportunity to address these important issues. If you have any questions, or wish a formal presentation of this report, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary P. Breshears, Executive Officer
Phoenix Area Indian Health Service
Workgroup Co-Chair

Enclosure